

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 June 2006 (08.06.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/059792 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
B4IJ 2/165 (2006.01) B4IJ 2/01 (2006.01)

(74) Agent: ITOH, Tadahiko; 32nd Floor, Yebisu Garden Place Tower, 20-3, Ebisu 4-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 1506032 (JP).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/JP2005/022504

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:

1 December 2005 (01.12.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

2004-347937 1 December 2004 (01.12.2004) JP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **RICOH COMPANY, LTD. [JP/JP]**; 3-6, Nakamagome 1-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 1438555 (JP).

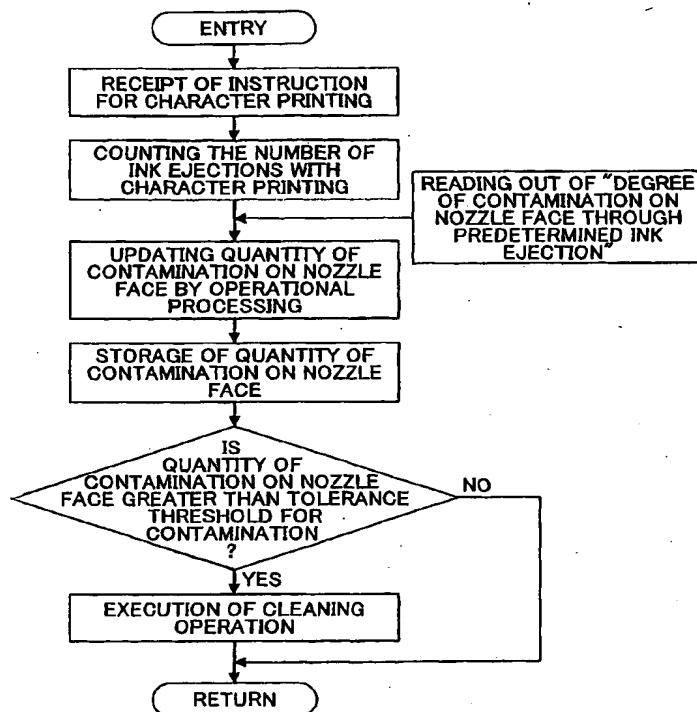
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KANEKO, Tetsuya** [JP/JP]; 19-24-508, Iligashihongou 6-chome, Midori-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, 2260002 (JP). **YAMANAKA, Kunihiro** [JP/JP]; 501-4B, Ichigaocho, Aoba-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, 2250024 (JP).

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: An image forming apparatus comprising: a recording head having a nozzle configured to eject a liquid drop of recording liquid so as to form an image on the recording medium with a liquid drop ejected from the nozzle of the recording head; a conveyer configured to electrostatically hold and convey a recording-medium by a charge provided to the conveyer; and a cleaning device configured to clean a nozzle face of the recording head based on a tolerance threshold value of contamination of the nozzle face generated by the ejection of a liquid drop and the number of liquid drops ejected from the recording head for image formation.

WO 2006/059792 A1



RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Published:

— with international search report